

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Serial Number: 09/828,451

Filing Date: April 6, 2001

Title: DEEP ORGAN ACCESS DEVICE AND METHOD

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-89 (Canceled)

90. (Currently Amended) A device for immobilizing a primary instrument, including:  
a base, sized and shaped to be secured about a burr hole in a skull, the base defining an access lumen; and  
coupled within the access lumen of the base, a stabilizer to engage the instrument inserted through the burr hole, the stabilizer including a movable member, wherein an edge of the moveable member and an opposing surface of the stabilizer define a radial opening that extends inward from an outer perimeter of the stabilizer, and the opening is sized and shaped to hold and immobilize the instrument at any location within the access lumen with respect to the burr hole.

Claims 91-92 (Canceled)

93. (Original) The device of claim 90, in which the base comprises a ring defining an access lumen concentric to the burr hole.
94. (Original) The device of claim 93, in which the base further comprises a lip, extending circumferentially about the access lumen, the lip sized and shaped to receive and support at least a portion of the stabilizer.
95. (Original) The device of claim 94, in which the stabilizer includes a disk, sized and shaped to fit within the base and to be received and supported by the lip, the disk covering at least a portion of the access lumen.
96. (Original) The device of claim 95, in which the movable member includes a hinged member.

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97. (Original) The device of claim 96, in which the hinged member includes a cam that is hingedly coupled to the disk.

98. (Original) The device of claim 93, in which the base comprises an exit groove extending outward from the access lumen, the exit groove sized and shaped to receive at least a portion of the instrument therein to permit the instrument to exit the base.

99. (Original) The device of claim 90, in which the base comprises at least one receptacle sized and shaped to receive a mating portion of a cap sized and shaped to substantially cover the access lumen.

100. (Original) The device of claim 90, in which the stabilizer includes a disk, sized and shaped to cover at least a portion of the burr hole, and wherein the movable member includes:  
a hinge, coupling the movable member to the disk; and  
a catch, engaging the disk to secure the movable member in a closed position to substantially immobilize the instrument.

101. (Original) The device of claim 100, in which the movable member includes an engagement sized and shaped to receive a tool for moving the movable member to the closed position.

102. (Original) The device of claim 90, further including a cap sized and shaped to engage the base and substantially cover the burr hole.

103. (Currently Amended) A device for immobilizing a primary instrument, comprising:  
a ring-shaped base, defining an access lumen therethrough; and  
a stabilizer, supported within the access lumen, the stabilizer including:  
a disk; and

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a movable cam, hingedly coupled to the disk to define a radial slot between the cam and the disk to clamp the instrument within the radial slot at any location within the access lumen, wherein the disk and the movable cam substantially cover the access lumen when the moveable cam is engaged to the disk in a closed position.

104. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 103, in which the movable cam includes a catch that engages the disk to restrict movement between the movable cam and the disk to clamp the instrument.

105. (Original) The device of claim 103, in which the disk is 360-degree rotatable within the access lumen to orient the radial slot such that the instrument is capable of being clamped within the radial slot at any desired location within the access lumen.

106. (Original) The device of claim 103, in which the base includes an exit groove extending radially outward from the access lumen, the exit groove sized and shaped to receive a portion of the instrument.

107. (Previously Presented) A device comprising:

a ring-shaped base, sized and shaped to be secured about a burr hole in a skull, the base defining an access lumen therethrough that is concentric to the burr hole, the base including a lip circumferentially surrounding the access lumen, the base further including an exit groove extending outward from the access lumen, the exit groove sized and shaped to receive an electrode therethrough; and

an electrode stabilizer, sized and shaped to be supported on the lip and carried within the access lumen, the stabilizer including:

a rotatable disk located within the access lumen; and

a movable member, hingedly coupled to the disk to define a radial slot between the member and the disk, wherein the radial slot is rotatably positionable to allow access through the radial slot to the entire access lumen, the movable member including a catch fixing a position

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of the movable member with respect to the disk to clamp the electrode anywhere along the radial slot.

108. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a ring-shaped base, sized and shaped to be secured about a burr hole in a skull, the base defining an access lumen therethrough that is concentric to the burr hole;

means, supported by the base and carried within the access lumen, for securing at any position within the access lumen an instrument extending through the access lumen and the burr hole; and

a cap, couplable to the base, the cap sized and shaped to cover the access lumen.

Claims 109-110 (Canceled)

111. (Previously Presented) A device comprising:

a ring-shaped base, defining an access lumen therethrough, the base including a lip circumferentially surrounding the access lumen;

a stabilizer, supported on the lip and carried within the access lumen, the stabilizer including:

a rotatable disk, including a radial slot that is rotatably orientable to allow access through the radial slot to the entire access lumen; and

a movable member, hingedly coupled to the disk to adjustably overlay a portion of the radial slot, the movable member including a catch fixing a position of the movable member with respect to the disk, wherein the movable member includes a recess sized and shaped to receive a tool for moving the movable member between open and closed positions.

112. (Previously Presented) A device for immobilizing a primary instrument, the device comprising:

a base, sized and shaped to be secured about a burr hole opening in a skull, the burr hole opening in the skull defining at an external surface of the skull a burr hole plane, the base including a first stabilizer oriented to grasp and immobilize a portion of the instrument passing

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substantially parallel to the burr hole plane, and the base defining an access lumen therethrough that is concentric to the burr hole; and

coupled to the base within the access lumen, a second stabilizer to engage the instrument inserted through the burr hole, the second stabilizer oriented to grasp and immobilize a portion of the instrument passing substantially perpendicularly to the burr hole plane, wherein the second stabilizer substantially covers the burr hole and the second stabilizer is dimensioned and configured to rotate to immobilize the portion of the instrument at any location within the access lumen.

113. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 112, in which the first stabilizer includes a groove formed in the base.

114. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 113, in which the second stabilizer includes a movable clamp, the movable clamp capable of motion, in a plane that is substantially parallel to the burr hole plane, providing an adjustably-sized opening that, in an open position, permits the portion of the instrument passing substantially perpendicularly to the burr hole plane to pass freely through the adjustably-sized opening, and, in a closed position, grasps and immobilizes the portion of the instrument passing substantially perpendicularly to the burr hole plane.

115. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 108, wherein one of the base and the cap includes at least one receptacle and the other of the base and the cap includes at least one snap-fit leg sized and shaped to fit within the at least one receptacle and retain the cap against the base, and the cap includes at least one exit groove that is configured to align with at least one other exit groove in the base.

116. (Previously Presented) A device for immobilizing an instrument comprising:  
a base sized and shaped to be secured around a burr hole, wherein the base includes an access lumen that is at least partially coincident with the burr hole;

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an insert coupled to the base within the access lumen, wherein the insert includes a radial slot extending from substantially the center of the insert to an outer perimeter of the insert, and the insert defines at least one face of the radial slot; and

a moveable clamping member coupled to the insert, wherein the clamping member defines an opposing face of the radial slot, and the opposing face is moveable into engagement against the at least one face of the radial slot.

117. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 116, further comprising a cap couplable to the base, wherein one of the base and the cap includes at least one receptacle and the other of the base and the cap includes at least one snap-fit leg sized and shaped to fit within the at least one receptacle and retain the cap against the base.

118. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 116, wherein the insert is rotatably coupled to the base, and rotation of the insert is operable to dispose the radial slot over any portion of the access lumen.

119. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 116, wherein the opposing face of the clamping member is operable to engage an instrument against the at least one face of the radial slot anywhere along the opposing face and the at least one face.

120. (Previously Presented) A device for immobilizing an instrument comprising:

a base sized and shaped to be secured around a burr hole, wherein the base includes an access lumen that is at least partially coincident with the burr hole;

an insert rotatably located within the base, wherein the insert includes a radial slot extending from substantially the center of the insert to an outer perimeter of the insert, and the insert defines at least one face of the radial slot; and

a moveable clamping member coupled to the insert, wherein the clamping member defines an opposing face of the radial slot, and rotation of the insert disposes the radial slot over any portion of the access lumen to allow retention of the instrument at any location within the access lumen.

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121. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 120, wherein the opposing face of the radial slot is engaged near the at least one face in a closed position such that an instrument is clamped between the at least one face and the opposing face.

122. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 121, wherein the opposing face and the at least one face are operable to retain an instrument at substantially any position along the opposing face and the at least one face.

123. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 120, wherein the base includes an exit groove sized and shaped to grasp the instrument disposed therein.

124. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 123, further comprising a cap sized and shaped to cover the access lumen, wherein the cap is operable to engage against the instrument disposed within the exit groove.

125. (Currently Amended) A device for immobilizing an instrument comprising:  
a base sized and shaped to be secured around a burr hole, wherein the base includes an access lumen that is at least partially coincident with the burr hole;  
an insert rotatably coupled to the base within the access lumen; and  
a clamping means, coupled to the insert, for immobilizing an instrument anywhere at any location within the access lumen by orienting the insert at a desired rotation with respect to the base.

126. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 125, wherein the insert defines one face of a radial slot extending inward from an outer perimeter of the insert, and the clamping means includes a moveable clamping member that defines an opposing face of the radial slot.

127. (Previously Presented) A device for immobilizing an instrument comprising:

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a base sized and shaped to be secured around a burr hole, wherein the base includes an access lumen that is at least partially coincident with the burr hole;

an insert rotatably coupled to the base, wherein the insert includes a radial slot extending from substantially the center of the insert to the perimeter of the insert, and the insert defines at least one face of the radial slot; and

a clamping member rotatably coupled to the insert, wherein the clamping member defines an opposing face of the radial slot, and rotation of the insert is operable to dispose the radial slot over any portion of the access lumen to allow retention of the instrument at any location within the access lumen; and

a cap couplable to the base, wherein one of the base and the cap includes at least one receptacle and the other of the base and the cap includes at least one snap-fit leg sized and shaped to fit within the at least one receptacle and retain the cap against the base, and the cap includes at least one exit groove that is configured to align with at least one other exit groove in the base.

128. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 127, wherein the insert and the clamping member substantially cover the access lumen when the opposing face of the clamping member is positioned substantially adjacent to the at least one face of the insert in a closed position.



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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6951 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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